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Freed Cubans Eye a New 'Beachhead'

BY VIRGINIA PREWETT

Bridade 2506, the Cuban invasion force recently ransomed from Cuba's prisons, is preparing to hit a new beachhead—the disunity of 300,000 anti-Castro Cuban exiles.

Most of the invasion veterans mean to continue working together to overthrow Castro, tho the future of the Brigade itself is uncertain.

"We'll knock on every door for help," said a Brigade member. "But we'll go back into Cuba even if all we have are razor blades."

Under a new watchword, "Unity for War," the heroic brigade already has quietly been pledged the support of most of the political groups among the exiles and the underground, it is learned.

The leadership group has another tremendous asset: Commander Jose San Roman's brother, Roberto, also a Brigade member, roomed at Harvard with President Kennedy's brother, Robert.

While in prison, it is learned, the veterans amazingly were able to exchange information with political prisoners and the underground. They report the following:

MORE REDS IN CUBA

• Russian troops in Cuba number 34,000, twice the number officially shown out by Washington.

• The majority of Castro's militia are active, tho of his political police would impel them to let put down a civilian uprising. But if Castro were faced by a strong, organized militia, they believe

• Castro's militia has to be put down by the political police. Wherever there is a large concentration of political prisoners is one of the main targets of the political police.

• The majority believe that only by working together can the invasion be successful.

the present consider themselves on leave from military duty under the Cuban Revolutionary Council. A small minority led by St. Enrique Llaca has withdrawn from the Brigade, however. He claims 100 followers, but other sources say he has only a fraction of that number.

OPINIONS DIFFER

Sr. Llaca, called an extreme rightist, reportedly takes the position that the invasion veterans will be kept from effective action against Castro if they stay under the authority of the Council, which is U. S. supported.

The Brigade majority, in contrast, contend they have a direct promise from President Kennedy to liberate their homeland.

"When President Kennedy in Miami said that about returning our flag when Cuba is free," said a Brigade member, "he said 'I'm going to return this flag to you in a free Havana.' And he asked to see the soldier, the specific color-guard, to whom he would hand the flag."

The invasion veterans consider this a historic pledge to Cuba, said the brigade member.

From Cuba
X Socio 1 Ho (CS)
X Para 3 J. SAN ROMAN
X Para 2 R. F. KENNEDY